

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

January 2026

www.oursaviorschurch.info

HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT – GOD'S LOVE

Dear siblings in Christ,

With the busyness of the Christmas season over, all the families visited, all the feasts had, all the gifts unwrapped and all the songs sung, much of the country will already have taken down their trees, put away the lights, and swept the house bare of all remnants of the holiday season as we settle into the new year. It's a time that always left me deflated growing up—there was something deeply disappointing about how so much buildup to Christmas had all the air let out as soon as the day was done. Surely there was more to this than the one day?

In the Christian Tradition, Christmas lasts twelve days, starting with December 25th. We get twelve days to ponder the wonder of the Christ child, to bask in the awe of God-with-us, and to look forward to all that this baby will do to transform the world. We finish this Christmas season on January 6th with the day of Epiphany, celebrating the coming of the magi, the wise men, bearing gifts for the savior of the world.

But it doesn't stop there! Christmastide may be over with Epiphany, but in the days after Epiphany we celebrate the Season of Lights, where we are called as Christians to notice the ways that God's glory, justice, and love grows like the lengthening days around us. We're called to be part of that growing light that the darkness cannot overcome. Even if we've put away the decorations, the spirit of hope and anticipation and wonder can continue long after the bows are put away and the lights are taken down from the eaves.

Where do you see the growing hope of God in the world this season? Where do you see the darkness being overcome by the light of God today? Where do you see God revealed (which is what "Epiphany" means) in the kindness of strangers, in your own generosity, in the spirit of hope that flows out from the birth of the Christ child?

I see it in the ongoing work of the Food Shelf to feed hungry people even in the midst of the winter. I see it in the prayers this congregation so faithfully takes on by bringing *Portals of Prayer* books home. I see it in your generosity that happens both inside and outside the Christmas season. I see it in the ways this congregation seeks new and more engaging ways to pass the faith on to the next generation. I see it in the donations to Heart, and the backpack program, and so many other ways we provide for those in need. I see it in the ongoing march for justice from the marginalized and the poor, when you use your position to proclaim the good news of liberation for the oppressed. I see it in the hope we all feel at the birth of a child in the midst of the darkness of winter.

Christmas Day isn't the end of the Christmas season, and it's certainly not the end of watching for the hope we have in Christ. In January we're called to notice the Light of the world, and the growing hope that the savior brings to us and to all of humanity. May we all keep in mind that hope, that growing light, that stubborn march of justice that Christ has ushered into the world through his birth, and may we know that the joy of Christmas doesn't need to end when the decorations come down, because the light continues.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

God calls us to the waters of baptism, and as we enter the months ahead, keep in mind the following dates that are open for baptisms.

**January 11th, February 15th, April 4th, 5th,
May 17th, June 14th.**

Contact the Office if any of these dates would work for your family.
office.osbeldenville@gmail.com, 715-273-4570



Mark Your Calendars! Pastor Lucas will be offering a First Communion Class Saturday January 24th at 9am. This class is offered to all youth that are ready to learn the meaning of receiving communion.

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

December 2nd, 2025

Call Meeting to Order: President Tim Wiff at 6:00 PM.

Attending: Debbi Pittman, Pastor Lucas, Donna Constant, Ron Halverson, Tim Wiff, Julie Winger, Patricia Peterson, Mark Jensen, Sue Palmquist

Absent: Mike Rehbein, Steve Straub

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas

New Business:

Fairstand/Lutefisk Supper Disbursements will be determined at the January Meeting.

Budget: We started editing the budget for 2026. The salary section will be determined at the January meeting.

Ball Field: All expenses and issues for the ballfield will go through Donna Constant and Our Savior's Church Designated Account. It will no longer go through Men in Mission.

Old Business:

Insurance: The Church Stand has been added back into Our Savior's Insurance Policy.

Secretary's Report:

Edit: change new mailbox at East Entrance was purchased, to mailbox repaired by Bruce Place.

Motion to approve Secretary's Report as presented by Donna, seconded by Julie, M/C.

Treasurer's Report:

Designated Account	\$36,494.32
General Account	-\$448.37
Money Market	<u>\$36,196.00</u>
Total	\$72,241.95

The Edward Jones CD account \$171,019.03 (-\$23.66)

The CCF CD account \$50,647.47

Amount owed to Designated Account is \$8,077.68. Council has agreed that if we still owe less than \$10,00.00 to the Designated Account at the end of the year, we will use money from the Money Market Account to bring the General Account to a zero balance.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Donna, seconded by Pastor, M/C.

Pastor's report:

Motion to approve Pastor's Report as presented by Patricia, seconded by Sue, M/C.

Youth Report:

Motion to approve Youth Report as presented by Julie, seconded by Debbi, M/C.

Continue on next page....

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: 5th Sunday in November was a huge success. Thank you for all that volunteered to create a wonderful contemporary worship service.

Worship Committee: Advent Liturgy/Christmas Carols has been finalized.

Property Committee: Upcoming 2026 maintenance. Church Office will get a new/used desk and a new coat of paint. Hallway near Church offices will get a new coat of paint. Children's Playroom will get a new coat of paint and new carpet.

Conflict Detection: none

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Closed Session:

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Julie, seconded by Ron, M/C.

Next Council Meeting: January 6th, 2026 at 6pm

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Peterson



**Support Our Mission
with eGiving**

This Season, consider making your gifts using our eGiving tools. Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers online: www.oursaviorschurch.info "give" tab
Text-to-Give: 833-506-0632.

Endowment Fund Meeting Minutes 12/7/2025

Meeting called to order, members present: Claire Severson, Dave Jordahl, Randy Winger, Carla Radkey-Earney, Heather Johnson. No minutes were available to read from the previous meeting.

Motion made/seconded/voted/carried to have Randy reinvest the CD that is coming due on 12/27.

We looked at all four categories of giving; by-laws state at least 10% of the annual giving total needs to go toward each of those categories. The combined Endowment Fund investments have earned enough for us to give \$2500 in 2026. Motion M/S/V/C to give \$2500 spread across those four categories, with at least \$250 (10% of \$2500) going toward each category. We are giving a larger total in individual scholarships this year, which leaves a bit less (but still at least 10% of the total) to give toward the other categories.

For Category #1, we looked at the scholarship applications that were received by the Dec 1, 2025 deadline. We have \$1400 in scholarship applications for next year: Morgan Kolodzienski \$200, Ruby Straub \$400, Mary Lundstrom \$400, Nora Feuerhelm \$400. We also discussed rewording the Scholarship Application for 4-year students ***. M/S/V/C to reword the Scholarship Application as discussed: we will give our Council Liaison Julie Winger a copy of the new wording to get approval from the Council. The other part of Category #1 is the MIM/LPBC scholarship. We looked at last year's amounts given, and tried to give close to the same amounts for all categories. M/S/V/C to approve the following disbursements across the 4 categories:

Category 1	Individual Scholarships	\$1400	
	MIM/LPBC scholarship	\$200	(\$200 last year)
Category 2	Pierce County Food Pantry	\$200	(\$200 LY) Keeping current hunger needs/gov't funding cuts/grocery store prices in mind, we did not want to decrease giving here.
	Operation Christmas Child	\$100	(\$100 LY)
	Turningpoint	\$100	(\$100 LY)
Category 3	Luther Point	\$125	(\$200 LY)
	UWRF Journey House	\$125	(\$200 LY)
Category 4	World Hunger	\$125	(\$200 LY)
	Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$125	(\$200 LY)

Julie will present to Council for approval in January, congregation will vote on approval in the Annual Meeting.

Our next meeting will be March 22nd after worship service.

M/S/V/C to adjourn.

*** See Claire Severson's email from Monday Dec 8th for new Scholarship Application wording. Julie Winger was included in that email.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Johnson



Please Pray for;
**Gene Ostendorf, Kay Baker, Jon Swedien, Sharlene Valenzuela,
Dave Buettner, Steve DuMond, Herman Olson, Max Beck, Matt Feuerhelm,
John Paape, and Kristen Anderson.**
If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is inviting anyone who loves to sing to join them for the upcoming season. The choir is open to all voices. The concert theme for 2026 is *Soli Deo Gloria* (Glory to God Alone).

The choir rehearses on Sunday afternoons starting January 4, 2026. Rehearsals are at the Ellsworth Senior High School in the choir room at 1:30 P.M. Concerts are held in area churches on Sunday afternoons and evenings in April except for Easter Sunday. The choir also performs at a Haitian benefit concert in River Falls that is held in late February or early March. Singers of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate. The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

The Pierce County Ecumenical Choir is under the direction of Janet Hansmeier. Organizing committee members are Connie Anderson, Shelly Johnson, Ione Hayes, Joanne Farrell, Rita Anderson and Pat Shutes. People interested in joining the choir should contact the director for more information, Jan Hansmeier at jansmeier62@gmail.com or 320-241-1829.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. For the month of **JANUARY** we will be collecting; **Any Soup, Spaghetti or Tomato Sauce, Canned Chicken, Canned Peas, Crackers and Laundry Soap.** Please put the items in the grocery cart in the back of the church.

Thank you for showing your concern. Money donations accepted as well. Did you know that every dollar donated can purchase \$7 worth of food? Online donations @[hungerpreventioncouncil.net](https://www.hungerpreventioncouncil.net), call 715-273-2070 or to arrange a food drive sponsored by your family or organization. Let's help end hunger in Pierce County.



WELCA Quilts and Baby Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief is the distributor of the quilts we make at church. The quilts are used for warmth, shelter as tents and beds. We take the quilts to a warehouse in St. Paul where they are stored until semis take them to ports on the east coast or to designated disasters in the United States. There is another warehouse in Maryland. From our warehouse in Minnesota this year: 9,520 quilts went to Madagascar, 9,520 quilts went to Tanzania 9,520 quilts went to Djibouti, Africa, 5,100 quilts went to Zimbabwe 85,737 quilts went to disaster relief in the Eastern States of USA, 17, 720 quilts went to USA Central States with disasters, 10,851 quilts to the disasters in the Western States of USA

We keep back a few quilts to send with the Mission Trip kids and to local shelters. We average about 60 quilts each year. We purchase batting in large rolls to cut to the 60x80 required size for quilts. We use gently used sheets for backing and cut squares from fabric scraps for the front or use another whole sheet. Donations of used sheets, fabric, mattress pads or money are appreciated.

Baby Care Kits are also stored in the warehouse in St Paul. They were shipped from there to five different countries including the USA. 3,500 kits went to Liberia, 7,350 kits went to Madagascar, 7,350 kits went to Sierra Leone, 7,350 kits went to Tanzania, 22,934 kits went throughout the United States

The Baby Care kits consist of 2 t-shirts, 1 sweater/coat, 2 sleepers/nightgowns, 2 pairs of new socks, 4 diapers, 2 blankets, 1 new towel and 2 bath soap bars. New items or next to new pristine items are required or custom officials will fine LWR or refuse passage.

We would welcome knitters and crocheters to donate sweaters, hats and lightweight blankets they could make for size 12 or 18 months. Fleece blankets are not acceptable.



All are welcome!
Please join us at Church on Monday's
December 1st & 15th at 10:00am.
We hope to see you there!



Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$1,000.00 to Feed My Starving Children from your fair stand and Lutefisk Supper fundraiser is providing 3,448 MannaPack meals to those around the world who need it the most. Until all are fed, J.J. Slag Executive Director/CEO

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the special gift of \$250.00. Your gift enable me to focus on the mission God has called me to. Bringing young men and women into the Kingdom of God! Love Debi

To our friends at Our Savior's Lutheran, on behalf of everyone at Free Clinic, thank you for your annual donation from your fundraising efforts. Your generosity is not only a blessing to our clinic, but a lifeline to the many individuals/families we serve with joy as we are called to do. Thank you for your continued commitment to compassion. Peace to you all this Holiday Season.
Jena Most/Nursing Supervisor.

Thank you to Our Savior's Lutheran Church Congregation for the generous \$600.00 donation in support of our programming! We are working hard to help the many who are struggling to meet their basic needs; food, clothing, housing, persona care items, case management, advocacy and so much more. Thank you for helping us help others!! With Gratitude, Shelly Smith

Committee Openings for 2026: We will have a few church committee openings occurring in 2026.

Please consider sharing your time & talents on one of these committees. Share your interest with any member of the nominating committee. Committees with openings: Council, 2-Delegates for Synod Assembly, Evangelism, Stewardship. Thank you, Peggy Hoyer, Renee Flynn and Jodi Wiff

Brief committee descriptions of committees with openings:

Evangelism Committee: Have you ever wondered who organizes the God's work our Hands, Gift Box Program, New Member Acknowledgement/reception, Basics for Local kids drive, Feed the farmer lunches, and so much more. The evangelism Committee keys words are "outreach to our members, the unchurched, and new people in the community. They help our church members reach out to those in need.

Stewardship Committee: Encourage preaching, teach and celebrating generosity in the life of the church. Ensure emphasis on some aspect of stewardship quarterly. Personalize giving so members can see and pray for what their gifts are doing.

Council Member: Congregation council member – this committee has general oversight of the life and activities of Our Savior's with special focus on its worship life to ensure that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Meets 11 times in year. Role includes; taking turns at Sunday tech support and counting of offering, and participation in council meetings.

Synod Assembly/Convention: We are looking for 2 voting church members to join with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, for possible a two-day commitment for a time of fellowship, worship, discussion, ministry updates and reports, and resolutions for the work we do together.

**2026
Preferred Senior Living
&
Ellsworth Health Services**

Worship Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday February 18th,
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

April 22nd, June 24th,
September 23rd, November 25th

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Pauline Laughnan Lanette Place Money Counters/ Tech Assistants Donna Constant Mark Jensen				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour	5	6 6pm Council Meeting	7 6-7pm Youth Night/ BINGO at the Ellsworth Health Services	8	9	10
11 9am Worship/Livestream 9:15am Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	12 10am Coffee & Conversation	13	14 7pm Confirmation	15 3pm Men in Mission Meeting	16	17
18 10am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 11am Fellowship Hour Oyster Stew & Soup	19	20	21 4pm S.O.S. Kids Crew 5:30pm Family Meal 7pm Confirmation	22	23	24 9am First Communion Class
25 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	26 10am Coffee & Conversation	27	28 8:30am Quilting 7pm Confirmation	29	30	31

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Assisting Minister
January 4th 9:00AM	Tim & Jodi Wiff	Kaia Christopherson Patricia Peterson	Megan Peterson June Feuerhelm	Tim Wiff	Roger Laughnan	Ann Young
January 11th 9:00AM	Bruce & Lanette Place	Wes Raleigh Mark Jensen	Ryland Jensen Brody Flynn	Belinda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Rhoda Foley
January 18th 10:00AM	Rhoda Foley	Patricia Peterson Donna Constant	Brady Peterson Wyatt Goodier	Sue Palmquist	Roger Laughnan	Lanette Place
January 25th 9:00AM	Roger & Pauline Laughnan	Wyatt Kirchner Bruce Place	Isaac Yunker Jake Knight		Roger Laughnan	Tom Holdorf

*Thank you for your participation in our worship service. Each ministry participant is greatly appreciated.
 If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone or call Lori Coulson, Mary Halls, or Vicki
 Bowen if you have any questions. Lori: 715-821-3731 Mary: 715-307-0842, Vicki: 612-756-5067.
 Instructions for each ministry position are posted in the narthex.*

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th Street
Beldenville WI 54003
Phone: (715) 273-4570
Pastor Lucas Ladnier
Email: pastor.osbeldenville@gmail.com
Office.osbeldenville@gmail.com
www.oursaviorschurch.info

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